

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (withdrawn) A method of darkening the skin, said method comprising applying to said skin a polymer comprising monomers selected from the group consisting of vanillin monomers, o-vanillin monomers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 2. (withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises monomers selected from the group consisting of 3-aminotyrosine, dihydroxy acetone, 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-amino, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, emodin, alizarin, tyrosine, 4,5-dihydroxynaphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 3-nitrotyrosine, 3-dimethylamino phenol, p-aminobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises aloin monomers.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 5. (withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises aloin monomers and dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 6. (withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, 9, 10-dihydroxystearic acid, linolenic acid, cholesterol, dihydroxycarbazole, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7. (withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

Claim 8. (withdrawn) A method of claim 2, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) A method of claim 3, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) A method of claim 5, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A polymer comprising (i) monomers selected from the group consisting of vanillin monomers, o-vanillin monomers, and mixtures thereof and (ii) monomers selected from the group consisting of 3-aminotyrosine, dihydroxy acetone, ~~3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-amino, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid,~~ aloin, emodin, alizarin, tyrosine, dihydroxyphenylalanine, 4,5-dihydroxynaphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 3-nitrotyrosine, 3-dimethylamino phenol, p-aminobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12. (original) A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers.

Claim 13. (withdrawn) A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers and dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 15. (withdrawn) A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer further comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid, linolenic acid, cholesterol, dihydroxycarbazole, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16. (withdrawn) A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 kd.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A polymer of claim 12, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 40kd.

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Claim 18. (withdrawn) A polymer of claim 14, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 kd.

Claim 19. (original) A composition comprising a polymer of claim 11 and cosmetically-acceptable topical carrier.

Claim 20. (withdrawn) A method of darkening the skin, said method comprising applying to said skin a composition of claim 19.